

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/000,084

Examiner

Adam L. Henderson

Applicant(s)

KANEDA, NAOYA

Art Unit

2615

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 10/14/05.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 20-23, currently renumbered as claims 1-4.
3. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 6. <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____ |
| 3. <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____ | 7. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment |
| 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material | 8. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance |
| | 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Allowable Subject Matter

1. Claims 20-23, currently renumbered as claims 1-4, are allowed.
2. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Nagata et al. (US Patent 6,947,092) discloses a lens apparatus 1 (FIG. 1) that is usable with multiple image sensors (camera 8, FIG. 1, column 2 lines 3-11). The lens system has a light quantity adjustment unit (iris, column 3 lines 46-50) and a controller that receives information concerning the settings to use in accordance with the camera (column 3 lines 56-61). There is no disclosure of the data from the camera setting a minimum aperture diameter or that the data from the camera sets a preset mode from a plurality of modes.

Parulski et al. discloses a lens apparatus (conventional optics 24, FIG. 1) interchangeably mounted on multiple image pickup apparatuses having different forms of image pickup devices (column 2 lines 13-24), comprising: an image pickup optical unit, consisting of all components within the exposure section 22: the conventional optics 24, the diaphragm 26, and the shutter 28 (FIG. 1); a light quantity adjustment unit (diaphragm 26, FIG. 1) inserted in an optical axis of said image pickup unit, the light quantity adjustment unit changing aperture diameter to control light quantity, which is inherent in the function of the diaphragm 26; and a controller (control processor 40, FIG. 1) for controlling a change in aperture diameter in accordance with an identifying signal, which provides information on the form of the image sensor (column 5 lines 3-8 and column 2 lines 19-24). Parulski et al. fail to disclose that the controller sets a minimum aperture diameter and that information regarding the form of the image pickup device includes one of the information concerning pixel pitch, number of pixels, or an aperture value.

Tsuyuki et al. disclose that a minimum limit value for the diameter of an aperture should be set with accordance to the focal length of the system and the pixel pitch of the image sensor according to the equation given in the disclosure (column 26 lines 13-28).

No prior art discloses or makes obvious the combination taught in the current application where the data from the camera sets a minimum aperture diameter and sets a preset mode of operation from a plurality of operation modes.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion


Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Adam L. Henderson whose telephone number is 571-272-8619. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday, 8am to 4:30pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David L. Ometz can be reached on 571-272-7593. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

ALH
25 October 2005



DAVID L. OMETZ
SUPERVISORY PATENT
EXAMINER